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# Sharon Music Academy

## Newsletter

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*"It occurred to me by intuition, and music was the driving force behind that intuition. My discovery was the result of musical perception."*

*-Albert Einstein*

*(When asked about his theory of relativity)*

## Music is Life

Dear Students and Parents,

Summer is almost over, and many of you are eager to start your music lessons. And we understand why. Those who had a chance to watch the Sharon Music Academy Senior Recital on their local TV stations or on DVD would be impressed not only by the professional level of the students' performances, but also by what and how they spoke about the role of music in their lives. It is not only the older academic achievers at the Music Academy, those who have been admitted to Harvard, Stanford, UPenn and University of Michigan, but also the younger students who seem to appreciate and value their music. I would like to share with you a poem written by eleven year old Aaron Weiner, a student of our Academy:

### My Special Place

My special place is a piano,  
where I go to relax from a stressful time  
I see white and black stripes  
like a zebra galloping on the African plain  
I hear peaceful music like  
calm waves in the sea  
I feel relaxed and calm like I  
was the piano  
When I finished and come  
out of the trance I ask  
"Why was I stressed?"

The poem just goes to show that music enriches people's lives regardless of their age and occupation. Our youngest student is 3.5 years old and our oldest is 87! Due to a variety of research and studies conducted over the past decades, the benefits of music education for children is now undeniable. Those who study music see visible

improvements in mental abilities, memory and coordination. Nine-year-old Andrew Song of Canton, also our student, got a perfect score and national award in a Continental Mathematics League contest. But what brings many adults every week after the hard day at work to their music lessons? Among our students there are CEOs and nurses, engineers and CPAs, store clerks and entrepreneurs, programmers and housewives, retirees and college students. If you ask them this question you will get many different but very passionate answers with one common theme – music is life.

*Tanya Schwartzman,*

*Music Director*

## Don't Miss These Opportunities

Every year Sharon Music Academy offers several programs to enhance our students' music experience. This year we will continue our **"Music Theory and Composition"** course that helps students not only to understand the logic behind the beauty of the sound but also unleashes their creativity. Our former student, Dean Krommydas, now a successful entrepreneur and amateur composer, placed in top five among 179 contestants in EastWest Soundonline Competition. You can listen to his music by following the link <http://www.soundsonline-forums.com/showthread.php?t=8818>.

Everybody loves to sing. Now you can learn how to do this right. Linda Barbieri, an acclaimed vocalist and teacher, leads several voice programs for children—"Disney Tunes" (for 8-9 years old) and **"Road to Broadway"** (for 10-12 years old). At these one hour weekly lessons students will learn the foundations of good singing technique, including proper breathing, singing in a relaxed, natural fashion with their voice. Private voice lessons are also available.

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Keys-for-Kids Program.  
Graduation Dance.

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Preschool music programs have been always our favorites. Besides being highly educational and beneficial for children's development, these programs are a lot of fun. This year we continue our popular **Keys-for-Kids™** programs for children ages 3.5-7. We are also introducing a new program for the same age groups—"**General Music Awareness**". If Keys-for-Kids™ program mainly focuses on musicianship and helps prepare children for learning a musical instrument, "General Music Awareness" has a broader focus and introduces children to a variety of musical styles, rhythms and melodies. Another wonderful addition to our preschool program is a "**Creative Movement and Art**" Course. Specifically designed for different age groups (1.5-3 and 3-5), it combines classical music, creative movement and fine art to develop creative expression, esthetic appreciation, self-confidence and interactive skills in young children. You can read detailed description of these courses on our website.

If you or your child wants to play in a **rock-band** or play in a **chamber ensemble**, please let us know. We will provide facilities and tutoring for these activities.

Our academic calendar is full of performing opportunities. Please select performances you would like to participate in and notify your instructor. Remember, our annual "**Families in Concert**" recital will be held in April and other members of your family ensemble need time to prepare.

There are a lot of wonderful opportunities these year to enjoy music—don't miss them!

## You can do it, we can help !

Every year our students successfully participate in various music competitions. Last year more than 20 young musicians became laureates of the American Fine Arts Festival and performed in prestigious concert halls in New York. Catherine Song won the 1st prize and \$500 in 22nd International Young Artists Piano Competition. As the winner of this competition

Catherine will be playing with Maryland Youth Symphony Orchestra. Shishi Chen became a winner of 2007 Chaminade Music Society Award (\$500). Xinlan Li received Special Award "Most Impressive Fingers" at 2007 URI Piano Extravaganza Festival Competition with a comment from the judges -"A strikingly beautiful performance!" Helen Gao won the

3<sup>rd</sup> place at Massachusetts Music Teachers Association 2007 Bay State Contest. Judges created special 4th prize (\$100) for Christopher Chen at 22nd International Young Artists Piano Competition.

If you have aspiration to win, perseverance and are not afraid of hard work - you can do it too! We can help!



Tanya with Andrew and Catherine Song—laureates of 2007 URI Piano Extravaganza Festival Competition

## Piano Tuning

Well maintained instrument makes a lot of difference in practicing and performing. And like a house, a piano holds its value if it is maintained properly. That's why it is important to service

your piano regularly by a professional tuner. For your benefit, Sharon Music Academy arranged a special deal with several reputable piano tuners. If more than 6 pianos in the area need tuning, the

tuners will give 10% discount to everybody, who signs up. So, our goal is to sign-up 6 people. If you are interested, please leave your name and telephone number on the sign-up sheet in the lobby.